

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME IV.

FORT WAYNE, IND., MARCH, 1892.

NUMBER 3.

EASTER THOUGHTS.

The saddest scene ever transacted in history was that executed on Calvary, the crucifixion of the Son of God. The happiest morn ever nshered in by the rising sun was that upon which our slain Lord triumphed over death and the grave. On Calvary the light goes out in darkness, at the new tomb in the garden, on the morning of the third day, that same light reappears glowing with renewed brilliancy, and to shine forever the light of the world.

On Calvary there is disappointment and defeat. The powers of darkness have a seeming victory. The great enemy of the God-man has through man achieved a triumph. But death and the tomb cannot hold the King of light and immortality in their bonds. He smites the shackles, He bursts the gates and on the third day He comes forth vindicating His power, a glorious comforter.

"Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Christ hath burst the gates of hell;
Death in vain forbids His rise
Christ hath opened paradise."

Gloating and jubilant enemies are terrified, abashed, dispaired. The victory is complete.

"Powers of Heaven, seraphic choirs
Sing and sweep your golden lyres;
Sons of men, in humbler strain
Sing your mighty Saviour's reign.

Every note with wonder swell,
Sin overthrown, and captive hell!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Where thy terrors, vanquished King."

At the crucifixion, there is present a little group of sympathizing and sorrowing friends. At first they witness the scene from afar off, later by a natural impulse of heart they find themselves drawn around the foot of the center cross. Their hearts are sad; their eyes are bathed in tears. They witness the sufferings of their dying friend and Master. They are also witnesses of the supernatural occurrences which attend that tragic scene on Calvary. Agony, sorrow, sympathy, love, mystery, attend that scene. "The shepherd is smitten and the sheep are scattered abroad." The sufferings are ended, and the curtain falls. The little band of friends and followers of the Nazarene are sad and disparaged. They are hopeless. This is indeed the only alternative

for the heart and for the world without Christ. For three consecutive days silence and death reign supreme in and about the sepulcher in the garden. But on the morning of the third day a new scene is presented. It is not a second scene enacted on Calvary, one of suffering, of death and despair; it is a scene of joy, of hope and of life. The same little group of men and women who witnessed the sad tragedy on Calvary, are witnesses of the new scene in the garden. Sorrow's tears are brushed away, and their faces are bathed in the light of resurrection joy. The tidings from the vanquished grave are too good. The story seems incredible. The light of the risen sun is too brilliant for the waking eye. The resurrection light was blinding to the eyes of the friends of the risen Lord. That same old story of Gethsemane and Calvary, and of the empty tomb, seems well nigh incredible to the waking heart of to-day.

Joyful tidings are these, that come to us, down through the centuries, and tell us of the risen Christ. But the facts are well attested. Doubts and fears and sorrow must give way to hope, assurance and joy. That same voice that interrogated the woman in accents of wondrous surprise on that first Easter Morn, "Woman, why weepest thou?" still speaks to burdened and disparaged hearts. The Lord is risen, our faith is not in vain. Mourner, dry up your tears; sad heart, put on the garment of joy; dispaired soul, have hope. The Lord has triumphed. He has attested His power by His victory. "Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal;" the soul no foe, Christ cannot vanquish; the heart no sin-stain He cannot wash away.

There will be a children's service at the church Sabbath afternoon, April 3rd, at 2 o'clock. Every child coming to this service will be furnished with a scripture memento. At this service an effort will also be made to organize a Junior Society of Christian Endeavor. Let every child of the Sabbath school and church come to this meeting.

THE SONG OF THE WAKING FLOWERS.

[The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. Cant ii, 12.]

Did ye deem us dead?
Nay, we did but sleep,
Though we lay in
an earthly bed,
And o'er us white tears that
the snow-clouds weep
Like a fair woven
shroud were spread,
When the skies were
leaden and overcast
We dreamed of the
sunshine bright;
O'er our folded petals
a soft wind passed,
And we opened in
Easter-light.

THE LADIES' PRAYER MEETING.

The prayer meetings held at the parsonage have been very interesting and fruitful of good. The subjects for Bible study were prayer and love. The beautiful passages of scripture giving information and light upon these subjects are inexhaustible, and many more afternoons could be profitably spent in reading and study upon these subjects. The prayers offered were the pleadings of anxious hearts at a throne of grace for the speedy conversion of friends and neighbors. Surely the influence of the Holy Spirit was manifest in every heart present. Those who fail to attend these meetings are depriving their own souls of a rich feast in spiritual things. We trust that many of the ladies will avail themselves of these opportunities and not only come, but come and bring those who are not Christians, so that we may have an inspiring service. The next prayer meeting will be held in connection with the regular meeting of the Missionary Society, on Thursday, April the 14th, at 3 p. m. On account of the dinners to be given April 6 and 7, the meeting will not be held on the first Thursday of the month, but one week later.

It is surprising to know how many persons are anxious to read the Visitor and yet are forgetting to subscribe for it. Twenty-five cents is a trifle to pay for our parish paper, and every family should be willing to do at least this much toward its support.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - EDITOR.

Board of Managers: Rev. A. K. Zartman, F. D. Paulus, and D. W. Souder.

Entered at the postoffice at Fort Wayne, Indiana, as second-class matter. Feb. 7, 1889.

EASTER TIDINGS.

Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen. Luke 24, 5, 6.

We anticipate pleasant and refreshing Easter services. Let us pray that the Lord may send a shower of blessings upon our church.

Communion on Easter morning. Every member of the church should esteem it a great privilege to be at this service.

Reception of new members at the service on Easter morning. We entertain the hope that we shall have a large number of accessions at this communion.

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house." Acts, 16, 30, 31.

Have you a church home? If not, attend the services at the Grace Church during the Easter season, become acquainted with our people, and make your home among us.

A number of children will be baptized on Easter morning. This will be a convenient time when parents may dedicate their children to the Lord. "The promise is unto you and your children."

"And they spoke the word of the Lord unto him, with all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway." Acts. 16; 32, 23.

The members and friends, of the church and children of the Sabbath School will be furnished with special envelopes for their Easter offerings. These can be brought to the church Easter morning or evening. The children will likely bring their offerings in the evening. Do not rob the Lord of his own. Prepare to bring a liberal offering to him upon this joyfule day. We too often give too begrudgingly.

Persons desiring to unite with the church on Easter morning, should report early to the pastor, or some member of the consistory.

On Palm Sunday, April 10th, the pastor will preach a sermon to the children. Every child of the Sabbath School and church will be expected at this service. For a number of years the pastor has observed the custom of preaching to the children on this Sabbath, and these services have always been greatly blessed.

There will be services each evening during Easter week. Every member of the church should arrange to attend these special services. The pastor will be assisted in these meetings by several of the pastors of the city.

There will be exercises on Easter evening by the young people and children of the Sabbath School. The offerings received at this service will be for benevolence.

Who will furnish plants and flowers for the church on Easter? We should like to see the church handsomely decorated that day.

A large number of the scholars of our Sabbath School are old enough to unite with the church. During our Easter services a special effort should be made by parents and teachers to lead these children to Christ. "They that seek me early, shall find me."

Dear Christian, are you making any effort to lead one or more of your unconverted friends to the Lord, during this present season of special efforts? Will some one unite with our church on Easter in answer to your prayers, or as a result of your anxiety and labor? We hope you will not come to that "glad day" with a sad heart, and empty handed.

Thursday, April 14th, at 3 p. m., the ladies will have their Monthly Missionary Meeting at the church. With this will be combined the Ladies' Weekly Prayer Meeting. Come to this meeting. Bring your Bibles.

DINNERS AND SUPPERS.

The ladies of the church are making preparations to give dinners and suppers during the Grand Army encampment, April 6th and 7th. They have secured the store room on the southwest corner of Main and Harrison streets, where they will serve their meals. The time will be too short for the ladies to do soliciting from house to house. They therefore ask that our people from the country may furnish such provisions as they can—potatoes, cabbage, butter, eggs, milk, etc.—and report at the meal room on Tuesday P. M. or Wednesday morning. The members who will not furnish provisions will give what they can in ready cash, and report

as early as possible to either of the following ladies who constitute the Executive Committee, Mrs. Hesserd, Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Souder. It appears that all our members are heartily in favor of of this enterprise. Now if each family will pay a dollar or more into the hands of the committee, the ladies will have quite a substantial fund to draw from and will be able to buy to a great advantage.

It is predicted by those who seem to know that our ladies will have a large patronage, and it will be necessary to have all the help possible. We hope that all the ladies will turn out and give their help, and if any of our men have any spare time let them put themselves into appearance and give their assistance. There will be something to do for everyone. All the help that can be secured will be needed already on Tuesday afternoon, when the rooms will be cleaned and furnished.

Mrs. Peter Kline and Mrs. Perry Archer have been appointed to have charge of the tables with the following ladies as assistants:

Mrs. H. P. Vordermark, Mrs. Mathis, Mrs. John Chadwick, Mrs. James Cristie, Mrs. Guilaum, Mrs. Chas. Gumpfer, Mrs. D. L. Grubb, Mrs. Carrie Eckert, Anna Vordermark, Katie Walters, Birdie Saffern, Mattie Monn, Jessie Smith, Mary Rudisil, Lillie Vordermark, Nora Romy, Emma Bercot, Mollie Buckwalter, Nellie French, Libbie Felker, May Cavault.

The Executive Committee, Mrs. Hesserd, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Souder, will have the cooking department in charge, with the following ladies as assistants, Mrs. Jacob Certia, Mrs. John Snyder, Mrs. Schrack, Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. Monn, Mrs. Vinning, Mrs. C. C. Gumpfer, Mrs. Connett, Mrs. Soliday, Mrs. Lonergan, Mrs. John Shearer, Mrs. Cour, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Night, Mrs. John Botger, Mrs. Agster, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Haight, Mrs. Belle Babcock, Mrs. Traxler.

If some of these ladies cannot give their assistance all the time, they should by all means give just as much of their time as possible. If the proper effort is made the church should be able to realize good profits through this enterprise. The meals will be furnished for 25 cents.

William J. Stirlen and Della M. Small were married at the parsonage March 21st. They will reside about nine miles north of the city.

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Sabbath evening, - - - - - 7:30
Sunday School, - - - - - 9:30
Y. P. S. C. E. Prayer meeting Sab. evening 6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening 7:30
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MRS. F. D. PAULUS—Vice President.
MRS. CHARLES GUMPPER—Secretary.
MRS. M. CONET—Treasurer.

Y. P. S. C. E.

A. K. ZARTMAN—President.
EUGENE MATHIS—Vice President.
NORA ROMY—Secretary.
EUGENE MATHIS—Treasurer.

Do not forget to lay aside an offering to bring to the Lord on Easter Day.

How many new scholars will you secure for the Sabbath school during this quarter? Are you making any effort?

The young people's social Thursday evening, March 24th, was well attended and every person had a pleasant time.

With the 1st of April the Consistory will issue quarterly statements to the members of their accounts with the church. If any errors should occur they should be reported at once to the Consistory.

The "All-Day Sewing and Social" at the home of Mrs. Miller, Thursday, March 31st, was a very pleasant affair. All seemed to enjoy themselves, and also to make themselves useful. The gentlemen did but little sewing, in consequence of which they had plenty of time to do much talking, and some of them still more eating. Some of our men should learn to be more temperate, especially when they go away from home.

SALEM CHURCH, COLLINGSWOOD.

Mrs. Harrison Hensinger has been ill all winter, but is improving as the weather becomes pleasanter.

Mrs. John Warner has been sorely afflicted with sore eyes, but under the treatment of Dr. Wheelock is improving very rapidly. She is in no danger of losing her sight as was once feared.

The Sabbath School of this church will soon again be organized. No school should ever be allowed to freeze

over for the winter. This gives the devil entirely too much advantage.

Regular services will be held at the Salems Church, Monday evening, April 4th.

NEW SCHOLARS FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

The last issue of the VISITOR announced a plan by which it is hoped the enrollment of the Sabbath school can be greatly enlarged. The prize Bibles and certificates have been secured and have already been on exhibition. Already the plan is proving a success. March 27th, although a very rainy and unpleasant Sabbath, seven new scholars were enrolled, and we were assured that twenty or thirty would have entered the school that morning if the weather had been favorable. In the next issue we shall publish the names of the new scholars enrolled up to date, and by whom they were secured. Let this good work go on, and let every one throw out his hook and line, and become a fisher.

This work has a wholesome effect upon the school; it creates interest in every particular. Missionary work re-acts with great benefit upon the church or Sunday school. Work is stimulating. We feel confident that our sabbath school shall be blessed and greatly revived.

A FADED FLOWER.

Wednesday night, March 23rd, occurred the death of the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Rudisil. Like a fragrant little flower it cheered the home for a few days and then it withered and passed away. Hearts that were over-joyed at its coming were so soon made sad at its departing. It is sad indeed that treasures so dear to our hearts, should so soon be taken from us. But it is the Lord's doing, and we calmly and confidently submit to his ruling, and are comforted in knowing that they are safe in his care in the "Home Above." Long years of separation may intervene, but loving hearts will never forget the treasures laid up in Heaven, and in "some sweet day by and by" they shall again be given back to us. Sorrowing hearts shall again be made glad and burning tears shall be wiped away.

On Friday afternoon of the same week this little one was tenderly laid away in a beautiful spot in the "Linden Wood." May the Lord graciously remember the bereaved and comfort their hearts.

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References: The First National or Hamilton National Bank of Fort Wayne, Ind.

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Prayer Meeting Topics,

April 3. The first Psalm. What
is there in it for me? Psa. 1; Josh.
1; 8; 1 Thess. 2-13. Nora Romy.

April 10. Christ's Kingdom. Do I
belong to it? Psa. 2; Mat. 11:11.

Temperance meeting. John Vor-
dermark.

April 17. Easter thoughts. Matt.
28:1-8; Heb. 6:19-20. Lillie Walters.

April 24. He leadeth me. How?
Psa. 23. John 10:4-14. Consecration
meeting. Mrs. A. K. Zartman.

Monthly meeting of the young
people's society, Tuesday evening
April 5th.

THE Christian Endeavor Conven-
tion held at Huntington, March 17th
and 18th, was a great success. About
five hundred delegates were in at-
tendance. The following were pres-
ent from the Grace Church, Lillie
Vordermark, Etta Souder, Clara Pie-
pinbrink, Eugene Mathis, John
Vordermark, and the pastor. It is a
great pleasure to see so many young
people assembled, and so enthusiastic
in their work for Christ and the
church. Our delegates returned re-
freshed and invigorated, and wide
awake for work. Sabbath evening
March 20th, was devoted to Christian
Endeavor Work. The reports given
by the delegates, to the convention,
were well received by all who attended
the services. In a very short time
we hope to have a Junior Society in
the church. Sabbath afternoon
April 3rd, has been designated when
this society shall be organized. Every
boy and girl of the Sabbath
school is expected at this meeting.
This society should be started with
not less than fifty or more charter
members.

D. W. Souder, attended the 75th
birthday anniversary of his father at
Shelby, Ohio, March 19th. He re-
ports that his father is in good
health, and that they had a pleasant
time.

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